



STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
150 West North Temple, P.O. Box 2500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

APR 6 1981

April 1, 1981

Alvin E. Rickers, Director
Room 426 801-533-6121

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Executive Director
801-533-6111

MEMORANDUM

DIVISIONS

Community Health Services
Environmental Health
Family Health Services
Health Care Financing
and Standards

OFFICES

Administrative Services
Health Planning and
Policy Development
Medical Examiner
State Health Laboratory

TO: Dennis R. Dalley, Associate Deputy Director *DRD*
Division of Environmental Health

THROUGH: Calvin K. Sudweeks, Director
Bureau of Water Pollution Control *CS*

FROM: Earl H. Peirce *EHP*
Public Health Engineer
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

SUBJECT: Getty Gold Mine, Mercur, Utah

We have reviewed the "Request for approval of plans for management of industrial wastewaters at Getty Mineral Resources Company, Mercur Canyon Project." It appears to be in conformance with Utah Wastewater Disposal Regulations except for certain items concerning the tailings pond.

Since the tailings solution comes from a cyanide process we feel the pond should be constructed to have essentially a zero percolation rate as mentioned at the predesign meeting. The report states that "...it is believed that the pond will be largely self-sealing." This is not satisfactory. Perhaps Getty may have other rationale concerning this problem or may have plans to seal the pond. The request for the construction permit does not contain a projected chemical analysis for the wastewater in the talings.

Our construction permit cannot be issued at this time according the wastewater disposal regulations Part I paragraph 1.2.3 which requires "any person desiring a permit shall submit complete plans and specifications and other pertinent documents covering the proposed construction to the Division for review." We are therefore lacking plans for a properly lined tailings pond.

laf